

Once, a long time ago in a far away place, the Fox and the Coyote were friends with each other. As you may know, today they are archenemies, but something happened that changed their relationship. This story will tell you the secret of what happened.

One day Coyote was in his lair searching for something to eat. He saw that he had no food left in the cupboard, and he knew he must go hunting for more. He left his home in search of a delicious morsel to eat.

He came upon a mountain and saw his friend, Fox, leaning against its side. "Hello, Coyote, what are you doing?" asked Fox in a friendly tone. "I'm hunting for food because I have eaten everything in my cupboard," replied Coyote.

"I, too, am hungry, my friend, but I cannot leave this mountain to search for food. I wish that I could because I know where to find a big, fat hen."

Coyote's eyes grew big at the thought of a delicious hen, and he asked Fox why he couldn't leave the mountain.

"Can you not see that I am holding it up?" Fox asked with surprise. Coyote laughed and laughed and said Fox was joking with him, until he saw that Fox was serious. "Well, I will hold it up for you while you catch the hen, and then we can both eat a wonderful meal together," said Coyote.

"That's a perfect solution," said Fox, and they quickly swapped places. Fox said he would bring back the hen as soon as he could, and they would have a feast together.

Coyote happily held up the mountain while thinking of the delicious dinner that Fox would bring. He waited and waited, but Fox

never returned. Finally Coyote jumped away from the side of the mountain. Fearing he would be crushed, he ran as far away as he could, but the mountain did not fall at all. Coyote knew at once he had been tricked! Coyote was furious with his cruel friend.

Coyote had not seen Fox for many months when, one night, he came upon him next to the river. I will not be fooled again, thought Coyote; I won't even speak to him.

Instead, it was Fox who didn't speak, or even look at Coyote. He simply stared into the river with the moon shining overhead.

Finally, Coyote's curiosity got the best of him, and he asked, "What are you looking at?"

Fox said that he was looking at the cheese in the water. He wanted it but he couldn't reach it. Coyote looked into the water, and he saw that floating on top was a large, round, yellow spot of cheese. "Please help me," Fox begged. "My arms are too short, but yours are not."

"No! You've tricked me once before, and you will trick me again," said Coyote. Fox promised he would not, and he slowly lowered Coyote over the large, yellow spot in the water. Suddenly Fox let go, and Coyote landed with a splash! He realized then that the yellow spot was not cheese, as Fox had said. It was the reflection of the moon in the water, and he had been foxed again!

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